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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Lord, Father of us all, we give You thanks for giving us another day—another year.

Today, the last day of 2020, a most difficult year in so many ways, we ask Your blessing on this House and upon our Nation this penultimate pro forma session of the 116th Congress.

As we “gather,” virtually like the rest of our world in this time, we mourn the death of the first Member of Congress, Luke Letlow, newly elected and not yet sworn in, of COVID. Only 41, his death brings the brutal nature of this coronavirus plague to the doorstep of Congress. May all here find, with Your grace O Lord, the renewed energy and resolve to put our Nation's assets to the suppression of this disease. Lord, have mercy.

Bless as well those who have labored in these Halls and offices during this extraordinary year. Without their steady and faithful service, the work of Congress would not have been possible.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. DINGELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SERGEANT AT ARMS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 28, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1(b)(2) of House Resolution 965, following consultation with the Office of Attending Physician, I write to provide you further notification that the public health emergency due to the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 remains in effect.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. IRVING,
Sergeant at Arms.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces the Speaker's further extension, pursuant to section 1(b)(2) of House Resolution 965, effective December 31, 2020, of the “covered period” designated on May 20, 2020.

ADVANCING RESEARCH TO PREVENT SUICIDE ACT

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4704) to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as

wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The rate of Americans dying by suicide is on the rise, increasing 10.7 to 14.0 deaths per 100,000 people from 2001 to 2017.

(2) Suicide is the tenth-leading cause of death among people in the United States and the second-leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 15 and 34.

(3) The National Science Foundation funds research that is improving our basic understanding of factors with potential relevance to suicide, including potential relevance to prevention and treatment.

(4) Despite progress in mental health research, current gaps exist in scientific understanding and basic knowledge of human neural, genetic, cognitive, perceptual, behavioral, social, and environmental factors with potential relevance to suicide.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health and the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health and taking into consideration prioritized research agendas or strategic plans, as appropriate, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to institutions of higher education (or consortia of such institutions) to support multidisciplinary, fundamental research with potential relevance to suicide, including potential relevance to prevention and treatment, including, but not limited to—

(1) basic understanding of human social behavior;

(2) the neural basis of human cognition;

(3) basic understanding of cognitive, linguistic, social, cultural, and biological processes related to human development across the lifespan;

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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